JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE

17

NOV 94

JUSTICE LEAGUE® TASK FORCE™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BY WAID, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

SAVAGE

Sal & Jeff

HIS NAME IS VANDAL SAVAGE... THE CORPORATE MARAUDER WHO REINVENTED THE TERM...

I BELIEVE THIS--

KRHK

--MAKES IT UNANIMOUS.

WHUP WHUP WHUP

?

..."HOSTILE TAKEOVER."

SAVAGE HAS LIVED A VERY LONG TIME...

FWOP

FWOP

WHARROOMM...!

...BUT THAT TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT!

...GOT YOU TOP DOLLAR, MA'AM! NO, DON'T THANK ME...IT WAS MY PLEASURE! YOU BE SWEET TO THOSE GRANDKIDS, YOU HEAR? CIAO!

BE-BOOP-BOOP

BEN? MARTY! I JUST GOT THE OLD COW TO CLOSE AT FORTY UNDER MARKET! I CHARMED HER, THAT'S HOW! AM I THE BEST, OR--

--WHAT...?

MAY I BORROW YOUR PHONE?

AAAAAHH!

NO!

MY MAKE-UP...!

BE-BOOP-BOOP

HELLO, JOSHUA?

THIS :KOFF: IS YOUR BOSS.

BWAROOSH

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA.

YES...THEM AGAIN. BETWEEN THE DIVE AND THE SHRAPNEL, I MAY NEED A SPLEEN... DEFINITELY A HEART. I'LL--

--WHAT?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, MR. SAVAGE--THE DATA-BASE IS DOWN! I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...

DOWN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOWN?!

WEO WEOWEO

...BUT...I HAVE HARD COPY ON A FEW NAMES NOT YET ENTERED. WE SHOW A HALFBLOOD IN FT. MYERS...

...NO, WAIT, SHE'S A DIABETIC...

...AND A QUARTERBLOOD IN SARASOTA--- YOUNG MAN...

ALICIA LEARY (D)
367 MAIN
FT. MYERS

ROBERT SCHUYLER
66-D SPRING ST.
SARASOTA

LUCIO A

...MM-HMM... GOT IT...

WEOW OW

SCREECH

...I HAVE TO GO, JOSHUA...

AWRIGHT, BUDDY, HOLD 'EM HIGHHUURRK--:

...MY RIDE IS HERE.

'KEYS... KEYS...

...KEYYYS

TINK

:SIGH:

CAREFUL... CAREFUL...

...WHAT I GET FOR TRYING TO CARRY IT ALL IN ONE TRIP...

...SCREW PAPER...GIVE ME PLASTIC...

...LAMP... LAMP...

I'LL GET IT.

HUH?

YAAAAHH!

WHO ARE YOU!

YOU MIGHT CALL ME A... DISTANT RELATIVE, MR. SCHUYLER-- THOUGH WE'RE CLOSER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

IN FACT... I'VE COME FOR A LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART...

SAVAGE LEGACY

CHAPTER ONE: PARTS IS PARTS!

B-A-TA-TA

WOM TA-TA

RATT-TTA-TA

BULLETPROOF?

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.

WHICH, I BELIEVE, BRINGS THE SCORE TO TWO-UP.

STORY: MARK WAID
PENCILS: SAL VELLUTO
JEFF ALBRECHT
INKS: AND
ROMEO TANGHAL
LETTERER: YURNAIME PINAHA
COLORIST: DAVE GRAFE
EDITOR: RUBEN DIAZ
GURU: BRIAN AUGUSTYN

RAY: DESERVES MORE ATTITUDE.

TRIUMPH: HAS PLENTY TO SPARE.

BRAT-TA-TA-TA

UNLESS YOU CAN TOP THAT?

MAGNETIC FIELD. THAT MAKES US THREE-TWO.

GOT A LASER MOJO WORKIN'. HOWZAT?

THREE-UP.

HAD ENOUGH COMPETITION FOR ONE DAY?

MAGNETIC FIELD. FOUR-THREE AND GAME!

YOU ALREADY USED THAT ONE! THAT'S CHEATING!

NO, THAT'S WINNING. NEXT TIME, I'LL TOAST 'EM WITH A FORCE-BOLT. WILL THAT EASE YOUR SENSE OF JUSTICE?

IS THAT POSSIBLE?

BRATATAT

AREN'T WE OUT OF TARGETS?

YOU GOT MORE POWERS TO SHOW? THEN LET'S GO TWO FOR THREE!

KLANK

THONK

YOU ARE NOW.

GAME CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF FLAGRANT MACHISMO.

TRIUMPH STARTED IT.

I DID NOT.

LIKELY. THE SAME GOES FOR ALL OF YOU.

HELLO, J'ONN.

HI, DESPERO... ...SORRY... ...L-RON.

STRANGE...

...GYPSY, I THOUGHT YOUR BIG PLAY WAS CAMOUFLAGE... NOT OUT-AND-OUT INVISIBILITY.

THAT ROBOT'S SENSORS SHOULD HAVE DETECTED YOU--BUT THEY DIDN'T. WHY NOT?

MR. NEED-TO-KNOW...

...I... HAVE NO IDEA. MAYBE IT'S A STEALTH THING.

OR MAYBE THERE REALLY IS MORE TO ME THAN MEETS THE EYE...

I'VE BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER SO THAT WE MAY LEARN THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR ABILITIES--AND HOW BEST TO APPLY THEM.

THIS ISLAND HEADQUARTERS--ABANDONED BY OUR OLD FOE PROFESSOR IVO--SERVES THAT PURPOSE WELL. IVO'S ROBOTS PROVIDE US WITH THE PERFECT BATTLE TRAINING GROUND... OUR OWN "HOGAN'S ALLEY," AS IT WERE.

HOGAN'S ALLEY?

F.B.I. EXERCISE FIELD. FORGIVE THE LINGO. THE MARTIAN'S A LITTLE TOO HIP TO FIFTIES COP SHOWS.

NOT TO POINT FINGERS, J'ONN, BUT AREN'T WE THREE BEING SINGLED OUT?

SHOULDN'T UNCLE CHARLEY THERE HAVE TO PROVE HIMSELF AS WELL?

I HARDLY THINK--

...PERHAPS IN FUTURE EXERCISES--

THANK YOU FOR THE HIGHLY EXPOSITORY SHOW OF FAITH, L-RON...

...HIS POINT, J'ONN, WAS THAT WE'RE NOT THE TYROS YOU MAKE US OUT TO BE.

YEAH! WE'RE PRETTY COOL WITH OUR HEADS.

IN A CRISIS, WE'RE PLENTY QUICK ENOUGH TO SORT THE BAD GUYS FROM THE GOOD--

SNAP!

ACTUALLY, J'ONN, HE MAY BE CORRECT...

--OOPS...

...I, TOO, WOULD BE WISE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POWERS INHERENT IN THIS MONSTROUS FORM MY ARTIFICIAL SOUL INHABITS.

--AAAAAHH!

GET IT, GET IT, GET IT--!

SZZKKKT

YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I'LL REQUIRE A LITTLE MORE CONVINCING...

I SEE.

TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT YOUR "COOL HEADS."

GYPSY:

CAN'T GET SETTLED.

MAY AS WELL UNPACK.

RAY'S GOT HIS OWN CRIB--AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRIUMPH'S TALE IS--BUT I'VE GOT NO PLACE ELSE TO HANG...

...AND NO ONE TO HANG WITH... ANYMORE...

HI, MOM... DAD.

MISS YOU.

ME? I'M DOING WORLD-CLASS OKAY. J'ONN'S LOOKING AFTER ME. HE'S NO YOU, DAD. BUT NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING.

HE'S A KIND MAN. WISE... BUT A LITTLE DUSTY ON AFFAIRS OF THE HUMAN HEART.

HE MUST KNOW I'M MAD THAT HE DRAFTED ME ONTO A TEAM WITH DESPERO.

SURE... I KNOW IT'S L-RON'S BRAIN IN THAT MONSTER BODY... BUT KNOWING DOESN'T TAKE THE CHILL OFF.

EVERY TIME I SEE HIM, I'M REMINDED OF HOW DESPERO... MADE YOU GO AWAY...

...AND I DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED.

NO MATTER WHAT J'ONN BELIEVES, THERE MAY BE ROOM ON HIS TEAM FOR ME OR DESPERO...

...BUT NOT BOTH...

MYSTERY MAN:
CAN'T CATCH A BREAK.

...SHOULDA SOLD TICKETS, MULDOON! THE RAY AND THE CHICK AND THE GREEN GUY... MAN, THEY RAISED SOME MIGHTY HELL!

SCOTCHED THOSE CABAL YUTZES BING, BANG, BOOM...*

*J.L.T.F#0.--ROO

"GREEN GUY."

J'ONN... HERE AND GONE.

SEEMS I'M FOREVER A STEP BEHIND YOU, J'ONZZ.

THAT WILL CHANGE.

SOON, YOU AND YOUR TASK FORCE WILL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW THE FURY OF--

The OSPREY.

...EACH VIAL OF "BARDA" COMES SIGNED AND NUMBERED...

...ONLY THREE THOUSAND REMAINING IN THIS HOUR...

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A5

NICE LOOK. T-SHIRT AND FULL MASK. CASUAL, YET PARANOID.

WHY NOT GIVE IT UP, RAY?

TASKFORCE

ONLY $49.95

NOT ALL OF US ARE COMFORTABLE WITH OUR FACES HANGING OUT, OKAY? TRY TO BEAR UP UNDER IT.

YOU WANT TO RELAX IN FRONT OF THE TUBE? DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO RELAX?

LAST THING I SAW ON TV BEFORE ENTERING STASIS WAS "REMINGTON STEELE." IS THAT STILL ON?

DRAMA IS A DINOSAUR, MAN. YOU'VE MISSED THE ADVENT OF THE ARMCHAIR SHOPPER NETWORK.

CONSUMERTAINMENT! YOU CAN PURCHASE THE FINEST IN STAR TREK MEMORABILIA FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN COUCH!

YOU'RE KIDDING! THIS IS GREAT!

YOU GOT A MAJOR CREDIT CARD?

I'M NOT CALLING IN AN ORDER, FINHEAD-- I'M CHECKING AN INVESTMENT!

HELLO? I'M TRYING TO REACH RUSTY-- RUSSELL WELLS! I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS, AND I THINK WE HAVE BUSINESS--

THOOOOOOOOM!

NNGGGH!

WHAT THE HELL--?

RAY! GIVE US SOME LIGHT!

DONE! SO WHAT HIT THE GENERATOR?

IT'S A HYDRO-FOIL...WAS A HYDROFOIL! ANYONE ALIVE?

SCANNING TELEPATHICALLY...

...NO. ALL LIFE EXTINGUISHED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

FROM A TWO O'CLOCK POSITION! PEEL EYES, GUYS--

BRATTATATATA

BRATATATATA

BRATATATA

--IT LOOKS LIKE THIS LITTLE MOTORBOAT WAS PART OF ONE HELL-BENT FLEET!

I'LL PUT OUT THE FLAMES! YOU TAKE OUT THE BOATS!

GO!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON--

--WHICH I HATE--

--BUT I KNOW AN UNDERDOG WHEN I SEE ONE!

SO YOU GOT A PLAN?

...

YEAH.

OF COURSE.

IF I CONCENTRATE, I CAN CHANGE THE DENSITY OF THE WATER-- MAKE A RAMP! YOU FOLLOW?

VAROOOM

BOOOOOM!

DO I? WATCH ME!

IT APPEARS YOUR STUDENTS ARE ABSORBING THE CONCEPT OF TEAMWORK, J'ONN.

THEY LEARN BY GOOD EXAMPLE, L-RON...

...SO LET US SET ONE!

KRRSSHHH

LOOKS LIKE THE CAP'N IN BLACK HAS DOCKED! MYSTERY GUEST, SIGN IN, PLEASE!

NO NEED TO MOCK ME, STRIPLING.

I HAVE ALREADY MADE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.*

*IN JUSTICE LEAGUE: JUDGMENT DAY. --ROO

VANDAL SAVAGE?! AT OUR DOORSTEP?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

JUSTICE.

YOU CAN BEGIN BY DISPENSING SOME TO MY ATTACKERS--PROVIDED YOU CAN CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY COVER THEIR ESCAPE--

SPLASH

--WITH A DRASTIC MEASURE!

SUCH AS! BOYS--DO SOMETHING! THEY'RE LAUNCHING A PATRIOT!

KABLAAAMMM

CLEVER...

...DAMN IT.

WHILE WE TAKE OUT THE MISSILE--

--THEY BOOK LOOSE UNDERWATER! THEY'RE GONE!

YOU'RE WOUNDED? I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO--

I AM IMMORTAL, CHILD...

...BUT NOT INVULNERABLE.

AND THEREIN LIES THE CRISIS...WHICH THREATENS THE WORLD.

COME.

POWER'S STILL OUT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IF ANYONE'S TO SHED LIGHT IN THIS ROOM, IT HAD BEST BE YOU, SAVAGE.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF... NOW.

MUCH OF MY STORY IS FAMILIAR TO YOU, OLD FOE.

I HAVE WALKED THIS EARTH SINCE THE DAWN OF MAN.

"DURING THAT TIME, I HAVE... MATED... WITH COUNTLESS WOMEN, MINGLING MY IMMORTAL BLOOD WITH THEIRS.

"OVER THE MILLENNIA, I HAVE SIRED GENERATION UPON GENERATION OF OFFSPRING--AND NOT SIMPLY TO ANSWER THE CALL OF LUST."

THOUGH MY CONSCIOUSNESS CAN SURVIVE FOREVER, THE BODY WHICH HOUSES IT--WHILE EXCEEDINGLY LONG-LIVED--IS STILL CURSED WITH MORTALITY.

FROM TIME TO TIME, PARTS... WEAR OUT...

...AND MUST BE REPLACED.

:GASP:

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE ASSEMBLED A MASTER DATA-BASE THAT TRACKS MY "FAMILY TREE"--

--AND NAMES THOSE MILLIONS WHO CARRY EVEN A FRACTION OF MY LINEAGE... FOR ONLY THEIR BLOOD CONTAINS THE X-FACTOR THAT ALLOWS MY BODY TO ACCEPT...

...THEIR ORGANS.

THAT SAME DATABASE HAS NOW BEEN STOLEN BY AN UNKNOWN OPPONENT. I FEAR THAT HE MAY TARGET MY DESCENDANTS...

...AND DISPOSE OF THEM--AND THEIR PARTS--SO AS TO RENDER ME COMPLETELY VULNERABLE.

AND DESTROY IT. SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT AVERSE TO MAKING WITHDRAWALS FROM LIVE VICTIMS IF NEED BE.

J'ONN, WHAT'S THE CALL? DO WE HELP HIM?

I...AM NOT SURE WE CAN TRUST HIM.

TOGETHER, WE MUST REGAIN THAT LIST.

LISTEN. I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE GUY, BUT HE MAKES SENSE.

HE DID SET THE LEAGUE STRAIGHT DURING THE OVERMASTER'S REIGN, J'ONN.*

*AGAIN, JUDGMENT DAY.--ROO

YEAH. WELL, STILL... HE'S NOT EXACTLY ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS...

AGREED. LIVES OF LENGTH DO NOT EASILY CHANGE NATURE.

AS A SPACEMAN UNUSED TO CHANGE, I EXPECT SAVAGE'S EVIL TO BURN AS LONG AS THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS.

THAT'S AWFULLY MELODRAMATIC, UNCLE CHARLEY. YOU REALLY THINK HE'S DEALING US?

OOH. COULD BE.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO FOLD IN WITH HIM OR NOT!

HOW DOES THIS WORK? DO WE VOTE, OR--?

SILENCE!

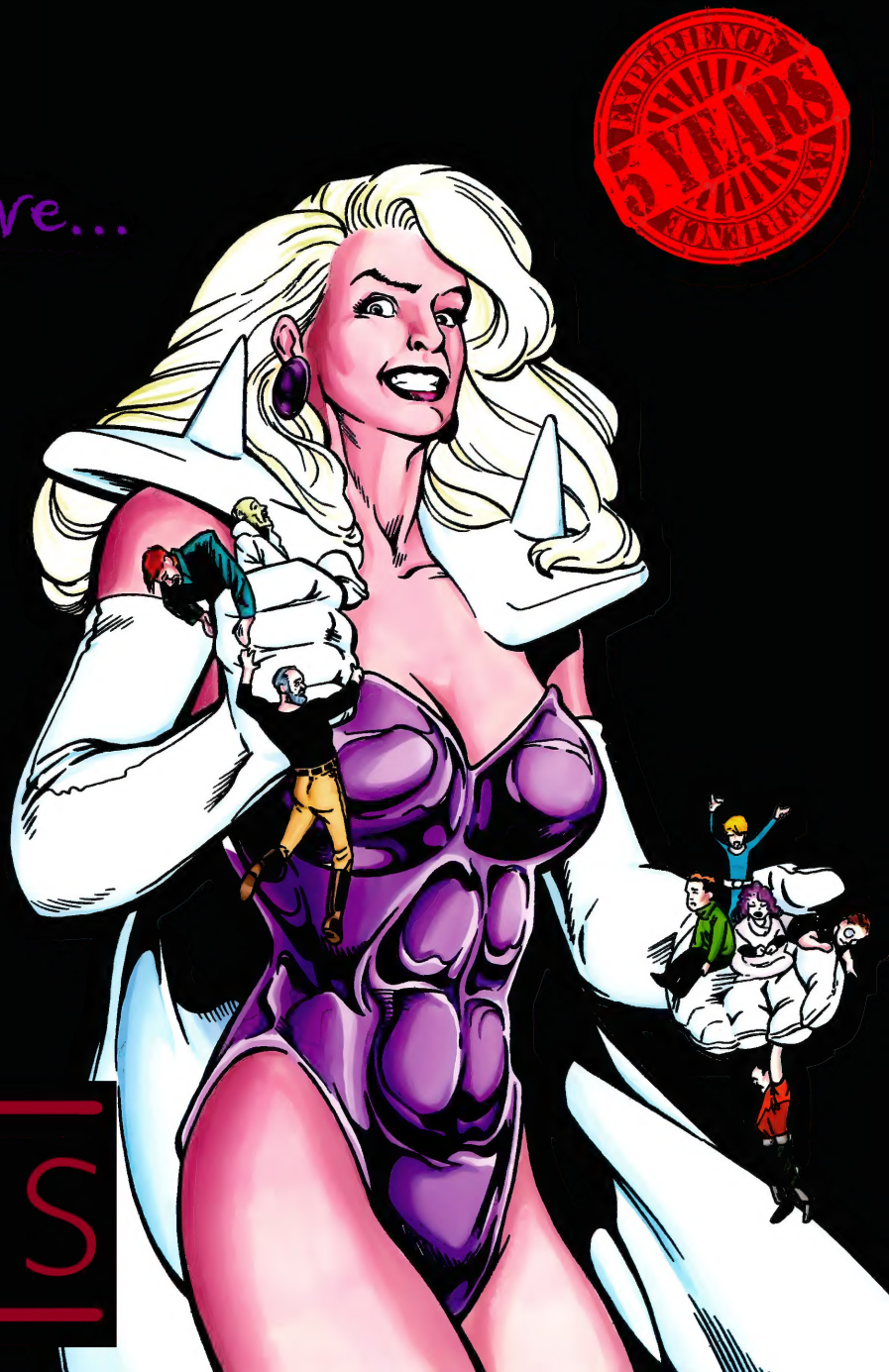
WHAT CHOICES DO EITHER OF US HAVE?

NO MORE DEBATE! MY DESCENDANTS ARE IN DANGER! EITHER WE ACT TOGETHER--

--OR FORFEIT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS!

NEXT: THE FROG AND THE SCORPION!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus